IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis in a mammal by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in vivo in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form antibody-antigen conjugates prior to administering said conjugates to said mammal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim ~~3 or 4~~ 2 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 8 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 8 wherein said endogenous soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 8 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferring and combinations thereof.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 for treating an immune thrombocytopenia.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 for treating inflammatory arthritis.

18. (Original) A method of inhibiting platelet clearance in a patient in need thereof by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising a therapeutic amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in said patient, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.

19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 18, wherein the therapeutic amount of the at least one antibody ranges from about 0.1µg to about 1g per kg of body weight per day.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ according to claim 18, wherein the at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered

for a time sufficient to therapeutically increase and maintain platelet cell counts.

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.

22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

23. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates prior to administering said conjugates to said mammal..

24. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is ovalbumin.

25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 21 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 27 wherein said soluble antigen is selected from albumin, transferring and combinations thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 27 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.

30. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 27 wherein said soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, said composition comprising an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein administration of said composition results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in vivo in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.

34. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 33, wherein said antibody and/or soluble antigen is capable of inhibiting platelet clearance.

35. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is foreign antigen.

36. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble antigen for administration to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

37. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody as antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim ~~36 or 37~~ 35 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.

39. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 35 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and said composition comprises an effective amount of said soluble antigen.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

42. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of said antibody.

43. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 41 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferring and combinations thereof.

44. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises said endogenous soluble antigen obtained from said mammal and said antibody as antibody-antigen conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

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59. (Cancelled)

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)